Extention and modernisation of Shivaji Terminus station

3500. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for extention and modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to develop Carnac Bunder (Mumbai CST) as a world class station through Public Private Partnership by leveraging the surplus land around and air space above the station.

(c) Does not arise.

New rail link between Jallandhar-Ferozepur and Amritsar-Khemkaran

3501. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a request from the State of Punjab for new rail link between Jallandhar-Ferozepur and Amritsar-Khemkaran;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) by when this new rail link would be approved and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request has been received for connecting Jallandhar-Firozepur and Amritsar-Khemkaran rail line. The survey for providing the connectivity has been taken up. Further action in the matter will be decided once the survey reports become available.

Attachment of Nanded division to Central Railway

3502. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has been requesting for attachment of Nanded railway division to the Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken up into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demand has been received from Very Important Persons (VIPs) including Chief Minister of Maharashtra for shifting the Nanded Railway division from South Central Railway to Central Railway.

(c) The decision to place a particular division under a particular zone is taken based on the operational/administrative requirements without any regional considerations. The proposal, when seen in the light of the above criterion has not been found feasible. The present arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Modernisation of Madurai Railway Station

3503. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madurai railway station has been given A-1 status; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for its modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last three years, an expenditure of Rs. 1.70 crore has been incurred on modernisation works at this station.

New Railway projects in Maharashtra

3504. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government to take up and provide funds for new railway lines, widening of existing railway lines and doubling the existing lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of work proposed to be taken up during 2008-09 and the fund allocated for the purpose; and

(d) by when the entire work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from State Government of Maharashtra for providing funds to various ongoing projects in the State. Requests have also been received for taking up new projects.

(c) During 2008-09, an allocation of Rs. 1135.65 crore has been provided for various projects falling fully/partly in the State. The new projects which have been included in Railway Budget 2008-09 are:—

(i) Wardha-Nanded new line;

(ii) Ratlam-Akola gauge conversion;

(iii) Udhna-Jalgaon doubling;

(iv) Mumbai Urban Transport Projects (Phase-II) rail component.

(d) Works would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.